

Mark Hightower was born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana but has lived in the greater Philadelphia area in Pennsylvania most his life. Mark sang as the bass soloist in rehearsal with the Philadelphia Orchestra for Beethoven's *9th Symphony* under the baton of Yannick Nézet-Séguin alongside soloists such as Angel Blue, soprano as Ryan Speedo Green's cover. This past season he was the Bass Soloist for the New Jersey Capital Philharmonic, the Wayne Oratorio Society, the Haverford-Bryn Mawr Chorale, the Wilmington Mastersingers, the Lansdale Choristers, the Reading Choral Society, and the Kutztown University Orchestra, performing works such as Haydn's *Creation*, Handel's *Messiah*, Beethoven's *9th Symphony*, Beethoven's *Mass in C*, Benjamin Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*, Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Serenade to Music*, Mozart's *Vesperae solennes*, Haydn's *Harmoniemesse in Bb* and Haydn's *Theresienmesse in Bb*. Hightower has also made his debut as the title role in Mendelssohn's *Elijah* this spring.

Since leaving his 15 year teaching career in 2022, Mark sang the role of Hariadeno in Cavalli's *L'Ormindo* at the Théâtre National Mohammed V in Rabat, Morocco, the role of Dr. Grenvil in Verdi's *La traviata* with Opera Delaware and Opera Baltimore, and reprised the Beethoven *9th Symphony* bass solos with the New Jersey Capital Philharmonic. He was Elijah with the Kutztown University Orchestra in collaboration with the Reading Choral Society. He has also recently enjoyed taking the opera stage as Figaro in *Le Nozze di Figaro* and Sarastro in *Die Zauberflöte* at the Trentino Music Festival in Italy and as Frank in *Die Fledermaus* with Lyric Opera Studio Weimar in Germany. Hightower is looking forward to making his debut as Osmin in Mozart's *Die Entführung* with the Jenaer Philharmonie in Jena, Germany this June, and as Coline in *La Bohème* with Opera Synergy in Cardiff, Wales this July.